

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 41, SEPTEMBER 2001

"He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of the law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

In

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Dear Life-study Listener,

"Give yourself to love the Lord. No other way is so prevailing, and no other way is so safe, so rich, and so full of enjoyment. Just love Him. Do not care for anything else." Did you notice this quote from last month's "Path of Life" article entitled "Loving Christ the Person"? We hope you're discovering the riches in that series each month. Our prayer is that every *Hearing of Faith* reader and life-study program listener would be brought into a deeper love for our Lord Jesus Christ. He is truly worthy, and loving Him is the most prevailing way.

This month marks the fifth year of *Life-study of the Bible* on the radio. We began broadcasting in September 1996 on six stations in the United States. Now that number is multiplied across this country and around the world. Last month we welcomed two stations broadcasting in Russian, and there are over one hundred stations broadcasting in Spanish. The program can be heard on local stations in Australia, England, New Zealand, Belize, Antigua, Ghana, and Nigeria in English. Thank you for your prayers for the Lord's continued blessing on this outreach.

This month we begin *Life-study of Deuteronomy*, so call or send in the enclosed order form to receive your printed life-study in time. Also, please take note of our new Website, www.lifestudy.com, which takes you directly to the Living Stream Ministry radio Web site.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

GHANA, AFRICA

ADOM	106.3 FM
5:30 A.M.	MONDAY
8:30 P.M.	THURSDAY

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

2BLU	89.1 FM
7:30 P.M.	MON, TUES
9:00 P.M.	WED, FRI
9:30 P.M.	THURS, SAT
8:30 P.M.	SUNDAY

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION?

The two angels standing at the empty tomb announced to the perplexed women who came to care for the body of Jesus, "Why are you seeking the living One among the dead? He is not here but has been raised" (Luke 24:5-6). That

(continued on page 3)

RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or radio@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

I listen to your broadcast on KCCF, and I want to say that I wish the very best for your ministry and those who participate in it. God bless. I believe you are doing a wonderful work getting out the message of God and the gospel in a way that is enlightening and edifying and that helps someone like me, a relatively new believer, to find the true meaning of the Bible, not just the surface meaning, and to delve in-depth into its meaning. I just really enjoy listening to your broadcast.

Surrey, B. C., Canada

I had the opportunity to listen to the broadcast yesterday and today. I heard it only in part, but I've enjoyed the study on the Jubilee and the kingdom as the Jubilee. I wanted to know how I can obtain that message. I feel good about this message because it is something that God is bringing me into. I have been in church for years but there's an enjoyment in Christ that I never knew of, and I am coming into that now. That is why the message is such a profound one and why I want a copy of it.

Missouri City, TX

To those who are responsible for producing this audio book [The Normal Christian Life], I say thank you. Praise the Lord for such a wonderful way to gain more of the divine truths from the ministry concerning Christ! Although I have read The Normal Christian Life, to actually hear it is marvelous! It is much more convenient to be able to listen as I drive to and from work. What a way to become more constituted!

Dunn Loring, VA

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF DEUTERONOMY

The book of Deuteronomy is a book primarily of plain words. This means that, generally speaking, it is not a book of types, figures, and shadows, and neither is it deep in the matter of prophecies. Nearly all the chapters of this book consist of plain words....

What does the word *Deuteronomy* mean? Literally, Deuteronomy means "second law" and thus signifies a respeaking, a repeated speaking, a speaking again. The book of Deuteronomy is a respeaking, not of ordinary words, but of the divine law.

The law was given through Moses the first time when he was eighty. Forty years later, after the first generation, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, had died out, the law was again related to the children of Israel. At that time, Moses was facing those of the younger generation, most of whom had not been present to hear the giving of the Ten Commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances. Therefore, God burdened Moses to relate the law again, to rehearse it, to respeak it. This repeating of the law was surely meaningful and significant.

We should not think that only Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Bible, is a deuteronomy, a respeaking. Actually, the entire Bible is a deuteronomy. We should therefore regard the whole Bible of sixty-six books as a deuteronomy. The writing of the Bible was completed nineteen hundred years ago, but when we read the Bible today, we experience a respeaking. The word in the Bible has already been spoken, but it is respoken to us day by day. This means that every day we may have a deuteronomy. For example, the book of Romans was written nearly two thousand years ago, but when we read Romans today, the word in this epistle is spoken to us again. This means that in our reading of Romans we have a deuteronomy.

To say that we may have a respeaking of the Bible does not mean that anything can be added to the Bible. The claim of Joseph Smith to have had a revelation in addition to what is in the Bible is nonsensical and heretical. Revelation 22:18 and 19 indicate that the entire revelation of God has been completed and that no one should add anything or take away anything. Therefore, we should not think that we can receive a new revelation in addition to what is recorded in the sixty-six books of the Bible. What we can have today is a deuteronomy, a respeaking of the word in the Scriptures. The word has already been spoken, but it can now be respoken to us; that is, it can become to us a deuteronomy.

Life-study of Deuteronomy, pp. 1-2, by Witness Lee

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CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

(continued from page 1)

astounding fact of Christ's resurrection was the turning point in the history and purpose of all mankind.

The significance of Christ's resurrection includes many facets. It is God's vindication and approval of the person and work of the Son; it is also the evidence of the Son's success, His victory over death, Satan, Hades, and the grave; and it is His entrance into glory.

On the one hand, God raised Christ from among the dead, indicating that God justified, vindicated, and approved the Lord's Person and His redemptive work accomplished through His all-inclusive death on the cross (Acts 2:32; 3:15). On the other hand, the Lord Jesus Himself, through His overcoming divine life, rose up from the dead as a proof of His success in all His achievements (Rom. 14:9; cf. John 10:17-18). Furthermore in His resurrection, the Lord destroyed the devil (Heb. 2:14), nullified death, and brought in life and incorruption (2 Tim. 1:10). Finally, the Lord's resurrection was His glorification. All of these aspects relate to the objective fact of His resurrection.

On the subjective side, there are also several arresting features of His resurrection that are related directly to "us who believe" (Eph. 1:19): His transfiguration to become the life-giving Spirit; His coming as the Spirit to indwell His believers; and His producing of the church to be His Body.

First, Christ's resurrection was His transfiguration into the life-giving Spirit with the view of entering into His believers (1 Cor. 15:45b; John 14:16-20). Through this process, Christ added the elements of His

incarnation, human living, death, and resurrection to the Spirit. The Spirit now possesses the divine life of the Triune God plus the uplifted human life of the God-man Savior with all His accomplishments, particularly His human living, His all-inclusive death, and His all-powerful resurrection.

Second, this Spirit of resurrection has entered into the believers, making them a new creation, dispensing Himself into them as the very life of God, and thus, constituting them to be the many sons of God (2 Cor. 5:17; John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10).

Every believer needs to enter into these deeper truths in the Bible.

As the old creation, the believers did not have the divine life and nature, but as the new creation they are born again of God and have the divine life and nature through the operation of the indwelling Spirit (John 1:13; 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4).

Finally, in resurrection He blended these many sons to be the many members of His own unique Body and thus produce the church as His fullness for the expanded expression of God for eternity (1 Cor. 12:12-13; 24-27; Eph. 1:19-23).

Every believer needs to enter into these deeper truths in the Bible to experience the resurrected Christ as the indwelling, life-giving Spirit.

For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version and *The Four Major Steps of Christ*, by Witness Lee, both published by Living Stream Ministry.


Listen to
TODAY'S BROADCAST

*Life-Study
of the Bible*
with Witness Lee

www.lifestudy.com

CHRIST *versus* RELIGION

Religion includes everything related to Christ or done on behalf of Christ that lacks the living presence of Christ Himself. Christ carried out His earthly ministry entirely outside of religion. The early followers of Christ also lived a vibrant Christian life apart from religion. The apostles charged the early churches to pursue Christ Himself rather than scriptural knowledge or outward observances. Even today Christ is calling His seekers away from doctrines, creeds, regulations, and all other forms of religion to a living and personal relationship with Him.



CHRIST *versus* RELIGION
WITNESS LEE

Christ versus Religion
ISBN 0-87083-010-4

Available at Christian Bookstores
through Anchor, Appalachian, Riverside,
and Spring Arbor Distributors.
Published by Living Stream Ministry
2431 W. La Palma Ave. • Anaheim, CA 92801
1-800-549-5164 • www.lsm.org

The PATH OF Life

Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of the spiritual life as revealed in God's Word. May the Lord show us "the path of life" (Psa. 16:11) that we may have a daily living of enjoying, experiencing, and gaining Christ.

JESUS PRESENTS HIMSELF AS THE BRIDEGROOM

The Lord Jesus did not argue nor reply to John's disciples and the Pharisees in a doctrinal way. He said to them, "Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?" [Matt. 9:15]. He answered not with a doctrine, but with a person. He referred to Himself as the Bridegroom! His presence causes them to rejoice, the presence of the Bridegroom. The Lord Jesus said nothing according to the teachings, according to the Scriptures, according to any quotation from the Bible in the old

The Lamb who took away our sins on the cross is also our Bridegroom.

way. Neither did He say anything concerning Himself as the Almighty God, the Creator, the Lord or the Master. God in the religious concept is such a One, but the Lord Jesus mentioned nothing of this. On the contrary, He referred to Himself as a Bridegroom.

A Bridegroom is the most pleasant person in the entire universe. You say that you fear God, you want to please God, you like to serve the Lord, etc.—that is good, but it is rather religious. Have you ever had the concept that your Lord Jesus Christ is not only the most Holy God, the Creator, the Almighty Lord, and the Master, but He is your Bridegroom, the most pleasant person? In the presence of the Bridegroom, fear is nonexistent. He is so lovely; He is so pleasant; we need not fear such a One. Hallelujah, we have the Bridegroom! The Lord Jesus said that the Bridegroom is here, the most pleasant person is here. Suppose that when He replied to the disciples of John and the Pharisees in such a way

John, James, and Peter suddenly shouted, Hallelujah! Do you think the Lord Jesus would rebuke them? Surely not; the Lord Jesus would be so happy.

The Lord Jesus is so much to us: He is the very God, He is the Creator, He is the Lord, He is the Master, He is the Lamb who bears away our sins and accomplishes redemption in a full way, and He is also the One with the Dove who imparts life into us and baptizes us with the Spirit. But, beside all these, He is the Bridegroom.

Eventually, at the end of the Bible we have such a term, "the wife of the Lamb" (Rev. 21:9). This is a matter which is to some extent contrary to religion

and religious thoughts. The Lamb is the Redeemer, but the Lamb who took away our sins on the cross is also our Bridegroom.

Some of you have been recently saved, while others have been saved for a considerable time. Have you ever prayed in this way, "O Lord Jesus, You are so lovely; You are my Bridegroom. Lord, I love You, I love You just as one who loves her bridegroom." Have you ever spoken to the Lord like this in your prayers? More or less we are under the influence of a religious concept. It is exceedingly easy for any Christian to pray, "O Lord, You are my God, You are my Father, You are my Master, You are my Creator." We could say this, but I fear we are not accustomed to saying, "Lord Jesus, You are my Bridegroom!"...

Many times in my room by myself I have really become excited. The Lord is so much to me. He is so good, so wonderful, far beyond what I can

express. He is the Bridegroom! Hallelujah! The Bridegroom is with us—we have His presence! We not only have the presence of the Almighty God, but the presence of the Bridegroom, the most pleasant person. He is so precious and so lovely. The Lord Jesus must be like this to us.

In the matter of love, none of us keep any formalities or rituals. If we really love someone, we drop all the forms. If not, our love is not genuine. Therefore, since Jesus is our Bridegroom, we must drop all our rituals and formalities.

Christ Versus Religion, pp. 11-14, by Witness Lee

THE HEARING OF FAITH

is a publication of Living Stream Ministry. All subscriptions are free. In addition to portions of ministry, this newsletter features broadcast updates and other items of interest. We hope that this newsletter will not only inform you of current news but will also nourish and refresh your spirit. Please be sure to read our reply card and feel free to use it to make comments or ask questions.

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According to the revelation of the Scripture, we believe that any ministry that comes from God should trust in God for all its needs. Therefore, we have made it our policy not to solicit donations or contributions. However, if any of our listeners are led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

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